United Nations A/56/634-S/2001/1087

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
20 November 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 21, 56, 58, 59, 61, 90, 95 (a), 97 (c), 98 (a), 105, 111 and 166

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:

Launching of global negotiations on international economic cooperation for development

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Questions relating to information

Macroeconomic policy questions: trade and development

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Globalization and interdependence

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

01-64895 (E) 211101 211101

Letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the press communiqué issued by the "troika" of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group, composed of the Ministers of Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India, at their meeting held on 14 November 2001 during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 21, 56, 58, 59, 61, 90, 95 (a), 97 (c), 98 (a), 105, 111 and 166 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Juan Gabriel **Valdés**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 16 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Spanish]

Press communiqué on the meeting between the "troika" of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of India

On the occasion of the fifty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, a meeting was held today between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the "troika" of the Rio Group — composed of Ms. Soledad Alvear, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Guillermo Fernández de Soto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia, and Mr. Roberto Rojas López, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica — and Mr. Jaswant Singh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of India.

Other Ministers for Foreign Affairs of countries members of the Rio Group also attended this meeting. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of India was accompanied by other senior members of his delegation.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with this first formal institutionalized meeting between the Rio Group and India. During the meeting the following subjects were considered:

- The overall situation in the two regions.
- The principal agreements reached at the Fifteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group.
- The international situation and terrorism.
- The strengthening of the role of the United Nations.
- Cooperation in international forums (the environment, terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, the arms trade).
- Coordination of joint positions on matters relating to the World Trade Organization.
- Cooperation with regard to information and communications technology, with special reference to overcoming the technological gap.

Both the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of India were of the view that there was great potential for understanding and mutual cooperation with regard to all the subjects discussed. They agreed to promote joint action and common positions within the framework of the United Nations and, in particular, at the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group appreciated India's offer to share its experience in the field of information and communications technology and to strengthen cooperation in matters relating to technology.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of India expressed his satisfaction with this first meeting with the Rio Group, which he regarded as the most important forum in the Latin American region on various multilateral matters.

On the subject of terrorism, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Rio Group and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of India categorically condemned the terrorist attacks carried out against the United States on 11 September 2001 and expressed their support for the actions undertaken by the international community to eradicate this scourge.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs also agreed that all terrorist acts and methods constituted a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, a threat to international peace and stability and an impediment to global economic growth. Moreover, terrorism was aimed at destroying human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in particular, it threatened the open and pluralistic character of democratic societies. Terrorism was a global scourge which must be dealt with on a collective basis.

Finally, it was agreed that the Rio Group and India would continue to work together in coordinating joint positions on matters of mutual interest.

New York, 14 November 2001.